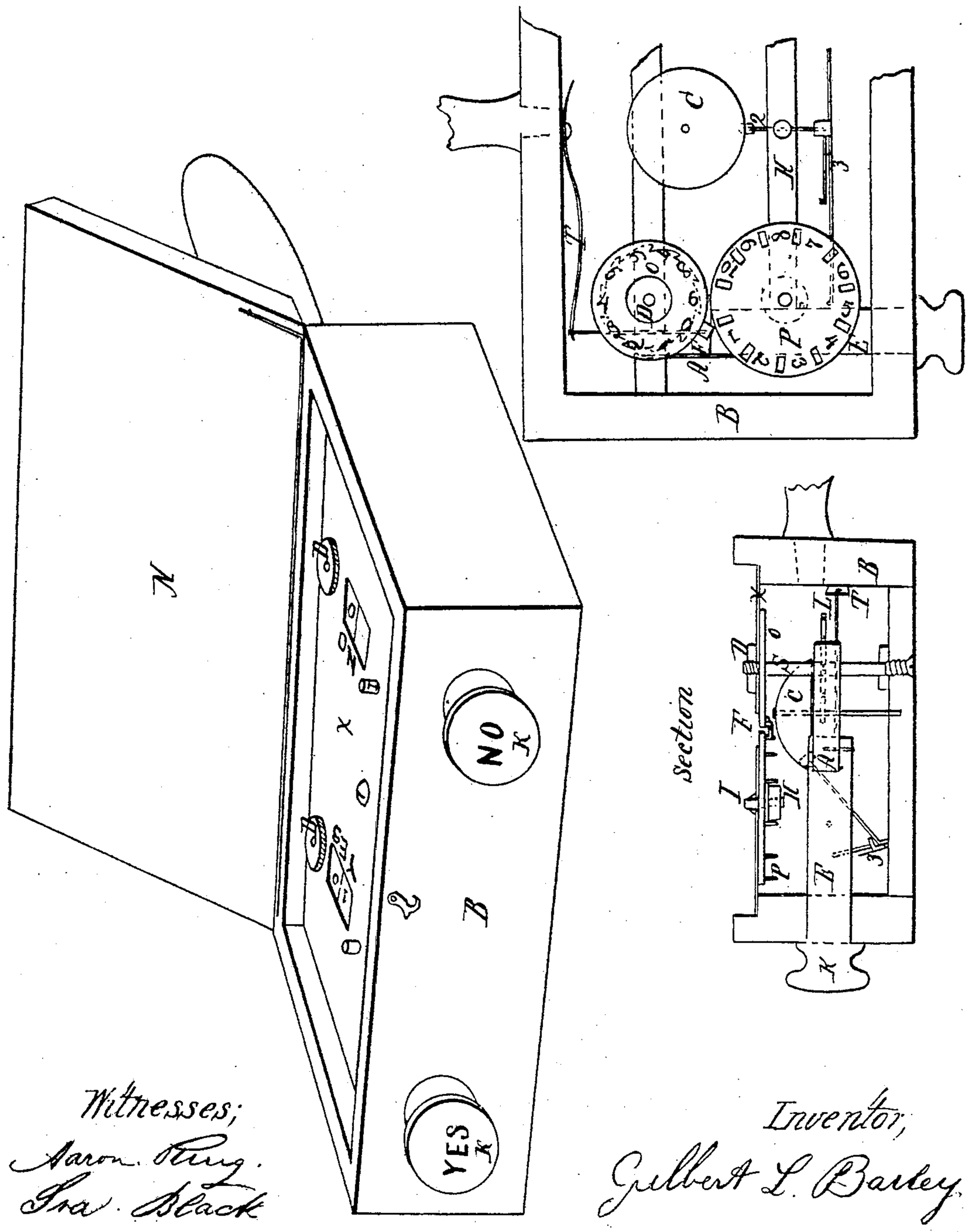
G. L. BAILEY.

BALLOT BOX.

No. 28,339. Patented May 22, 1860.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GILBERT L. BAILEY, OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

BALLOT-BOX.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **28,339**, dated May 22, 1860.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GILBERT L. BAILEY, of Portland, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Ballot-Boxes, by which the votes of a deliberative assembly or of an association are registered as fast as they are given; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the box with the cover standing open. Fig. 2 shows a plan, and Fig. 3 an elevation, of the operating mechanism.

The same letters have reference to like parts.

The nature of my invention consists in providing a box with suitable mechanism, which being operated by the hand of the voter, or of the person holding the same, causes the number of votes "yes" or "no" to be plainly indicated to the person carrying or holding the box.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

I construct my box of any convenient form and of a size varying according to the number which the mechanism to be contained therein is calculated to register, which number may also vary from ten to one thousand or more.

The box B is made of wood usually, but may be made of other substances, and has a cover or lid N opening on the top. Directly beneath this lid is a thin partition X of metal dropped slightly below the top of the box and dividing the space inside horizontally. The operating mechanism consists of a vertical spindle S, carrying a dial O and a ratchet-wheel L, the latter placed under the former, having its bearing at the top end in partition X and its lower end in the bottom of the box. Dial O has ten figures, including a cipher, placed at equal distances apart near its periphery. Another dial P, which may be larger, is placed opposite dial O in juxtaposition to it, and is supported on pin I, which has a head on the under side of partition X and is kept in position by a spring H pressing on said head. This spring also serves to prevent the too free revolution of dial P. Dial P carries on its surface near the periphery and equidistant from one another numbers from one to ten, twenty, thirty, inclusive, or more, according as the box is intended to register 100, 200, 300, or more, and between the first and last number is a blank space as large as that occupied by any one number. This blank space, when you commence to ballot, is exactly opposite the cipher on dial O, and both are seen through an aperture in partition X, while all other parts of the dials are covered by said partition, as in Fig. 1. Dial P has gear-teeth projecting from its under side in number corresponding with the numbers and space on the top side. Dial O has a single spur F on its under side, so placed as to take into the teeth on dial P once in every revolution, and moves P just the distance that its numbers are apart. Thus starting at blank and cipher, when O has made one complete revolution, P will exhibit the figure 1 through the aperture, which, in connection with the cipher on O, which will then be in sight, will read 10, and at the next movement of O its figure 1 will be brought opposite that on P and will read 11, while at the next complete revolution of O, P will be made to exhibit the figure 2, and in connection with the cipher on O, which will again be in view, will read 20, and so to any number desired, including, of course, all intermediate numbers. By this arrangement the single numbers on each dial are so combined by the united action of the dials as to make double numbers when such numbers are desired.

Dial O is rotated by means of the slide or pull E, which carries pawl A, which takes on ratchet-wheel L. Pull E projects through the front part of the box B, and is furnished with a knob K, by which it is drawn out to a stop provided on the inside a sufficient distance to bring a number on O in view, and when let go is returned by a spring T, also on the inside the box. A light spring also keeps pawl A in contact with the ratchet-wheel, and the return of pull E carries the hooked end of the pawl beyond the teeth in the ratchet-wheel, so that by means of the nut D′ on the top end of spindle S dial O may be turned back to commence a new ballot. Spindle S

rests on the end of a small screw passing up through the bottom of the box, which being turned in causes dial O to press against the under side of partition X, thus increasing the friction and preventing the pawl from moving the dial back when the pull is let go.

A small bell *c*, Fig. 2, is fixed inside the box about at its center in such a manner as to cause a sound to be given from the bell at every pull of E, by which any person attempting to vote twice is easily detected. The striking-hammer 2 is hinged to the bottom of the box, and is kept in position by a stop and spring. A narrow strip of metal 3 is also hinged to the bottom of the box, extending lengthwise from pull E to the striking-hammer, against which it rests in a vertical position. A pin projects from the side of pull E, which, when said pull is let go, after having been drawn out, comes in contact with one end of the strip of metal 3, causing it to press back the hammer, and thus the bell is struck upon its inner side.

There are two sets of the above-described mechanism, with the exception of the bell and hammer, contained in one box, one set to record the "yeas" and the other the "nays," the internal parts of only one of which are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The other, which is precisely like the one described, is placed near the opposite end of the box, and for convenience in placing the pulls E is made to revolve in an opposite direction. The two sets are entirely separate from one another in their operation.

On one of the knobs K, or near it on the box, is placed the monosyllable "Yes," and on the other "No," and the same are placed near the corresponding apertures in partition X, so that a person pulling the knob marked "Yes" will have his vote registered "yes," and vice versa.

I am aware that slides to be pushed in, or keys similar to piano-forte keys, may be substituted for the pulls; but I prefer the latter.

Some of the advantages of this improvement are, first, a great saving of time both in taking a vote and in announcing the result, and, secondly, the accuracy with which a vote can be determined, and the ready means of detecting a fraudulent voter by the alarm-bell.

I am aware that a patent was issued to one Joseph A. Hill, dated August 6, 1850, for an improvement in ballot-boxes, in which the number of votes was registered by means of a tape printed with numerals, operated by pedals which were to be trodden on by the person coming up to vote, and I do not wish to be understood as claiming any device or combination specified in said Hill's patent as my invention.

I do not claim a self-registering ballot-box as new or as of my invention, neither do I claim any of the parts herein described as new in themselves; but,

Having described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The employment of dials O and P, with their numerals and blank space operating in conjunction, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The employment of dials O and P, as and for the purpose set forth, in combination with ratchet-wheel L, pawl A, and pull E, or their equivalents.

3. The combination and use of the above-claimed dials, ratchet-wheel, pawl, and pull, operating as described, with alarm-bell C, for the purpose set forth.

4. The combination and use of the above-claimed dials, ratchet-wheel, pawl, and pull, whether with or without alarm-bell C, with any suitable box, substantially as described.

5. The combination and use of an alarm-bell with a self-registering ballot-box.

6. The combination and use of two sets of registering mechanism with one ballot-box, operating substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

GILBERT L. BAILEY.

Witnesses:
W. F. MASON,
E. K. BOOTHBY.